

**OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M**

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JAN 22 2008

**COUNCILMEMBER
DONNA FRYE**

DATE: January 22, 2008

TO: Councilmember Donna Frye
Councilmember Tony Young

FROM: Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst



SUBJECT: Whistle Blower/Hotline Issues

I have received your memorandum dated January 14 regarding your request for our office to study the issue of hotline organization, reporting, procedures and policies. I share your concerns about the independence of the City's hotline and its effectiveness. In the City of Phoenix, all hotline calls are referred to and followed up on by the City Auditor's Office, one of the options you mention in your memorandum.

In late December, we tasked Jefferson Wells, the audit firm hired to provide professional expertise to the Audit Committee, with reviewing the City's current hotline procedures and practices, and comparing them to best practices in other municipalities. I respectfully request, rather than undertaking a separate review at this time, that Jefferson Wells first conclude their findings so we have the benefit of their work. It is my understanding that they plan to complete their study in time to present their recommendations at the January 28 Audit Committee meeting. I have already provided your memorandum to Jefferson Wells and have asked them to consider all of the points raised in their final report on this matter.

I would also note that before serious consideration be given to the option of transferring the hotline to the City Auditor, it is important that Charter revisions be enacted providing for the City Auditor to report to the legislative branch rather than the executive branch. The pending June 2008 ballot decisions and election results are pertinent to any decision regarding organizational placement of the hotline.

Thank you for your ongoing concerns about this issue and your consideration of this memorandum. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns regarding this direction.

cc: City Council
Jefferson Wells
IBA Staff